

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the
Commission's Proposed Policies and Programs
Governing Low-Income Assistance Programs.

Rulemaking 01-08-027

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
REGARDING UPDATED CARE PENETRATION RATES**

By Decision (D.) 02-07-033, the Commission ordered Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCal), collectively referred to as "the utilities", to order and utilize special tabulations of 2000 Census data as soon as they are available to update California Alternate Rate for Energy (CARE) penetration rates. Anticipating that these special tabulations would be available in the fall 2002, the utilities were directed to submit updated numbers of eligible customers in their service territories using this data with their January, 2003 status reports. Because the timing of Census data availability was somewhat uncertain, I was authorized to modify the due dates set forth in the decision, for good cause. ¹

Energy Division reports that the 2000 Census special tabulations will not be available in a timeframe that will permit the utilities to update their CARE

¹ See D.02-07-033, p. 23 and Ordering Paragraphs 4 and 18.

penetration rates before mid-March, 2003 and possibly later. However, Energy Division also informs me that utilizing the 2000 Census Summary File 3 (SF3), which is currently available, is comparable to utilizing the information obtained from special tabulations.²

CARE penetration rates provide the relationship between the estimated number of customers eligible for CARE and the actual number of customers enrolled in the program, for each individual utility. These penetration rates are important for monitoring program performance; therefore, it is imperative that this information be updated to reflect 2000 Census data sooner, rather than later. At the time the Commission issued D.02-07-033, we anticipated that the special tabulations would be available for use *before* SF3. But given the change in sequence, I believe it is in the public interest, and fully consistent with the Commission's intent in D.02-07-033, to move forward with updating the utilities' penetration rates using SF3 as expeditiously as possible.

Accordingly, I direct the utilities to submit with their February 2003 status report an update of the number of eligible customers in their service territories utilizing the 2000 Census information provided in SF3. As directed in D.02-07-033, the report should also present a calculation of penetration rates that reflects this updated information. The utilities should also include a narrative

² Summary File 3 consists of 813 detailed tables of Census 2000 social, economic and housing characteristics compiled from a sample of approximately 19 million housing units (about 1 in 6 households) that received the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. From <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/sumfile3.html>

description of any differences between the updated and current penetration rates.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The utilities shall include with their February 2003 rapid deployment status reports, due February 21, 2003, updated numbers of CARE-eligible customers in their service territories using 2000 Census data from Summary File 3. The utilities shall include a detailed calculation of the updated penetration rates, along with a narrative describing any differences between the updated and current penetration rates.

2. Comments on the updated penetration rate information required by this ruling are due 20 days after the utilities file their February, 2003 status reports, and reply comments are due 10 days thereafter.

3. All filings and comments shall be filed at the Commission's Docket Office and served electronically on all appearances and the state service list in this proceeding. Service by U.S. mail is optional, except that one hard copy shall be mailed to Administrative Law Judge Meg Gottstein at P.O. Box 210, Volcano, CA 95689. In addition, if there is no electronic mail address available, the electronic mail is returned to the sender, or the recipient informs the sender of an inability to open the document, the sender shall immediately arrange for alternate service (regular U.S. mail shall be the default, unless another means—such as overnight delivery—is mutually agreed upon). Parties that prefer a hard copy or electronic file in original format in order to prepare analysis and filings

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in this proceeding may request service in that form as well. The current service list for this proceeding is available on the Commission's web page, www.cpuc.ca.gov.

Dated December 27, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CARL WOOD

Carl Wood
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have emailed and by mail this day served a true copy of the original of the attached ***Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Regarding Updated Care Penetration Rates*** s on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated December 27, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ SUSIE TOY

Susie Toy

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.
